

--45. (New) A method for producing an L-amino acid, comprising:

cultivating a bacterium in a culture medium, to produce and accumulate the L-amino acid in the medium, and

recovering the L-amino acid from the medium,

said bacterium being a bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia* and having an ability to produce an L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-proline, L-lysine, and L-glutamic acid, wherein an expression amount of at least one protein selected from the group consisting of:

(A) a protein having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 10; and

(B) a protein which is encoded by a DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 9 under stringent conditions of 60 °C, 1x SSC and 1% SDS, and which has an activity of excreting the L-amino acid,

is increased relative to a strain MG1655 or W3110 by increasing a copy number of a DNA coding for said protein in a cell or by replacing a promoter with a stronger promoter for expression of a DNA coding for said protein.

46. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein a copy number of a DNA coding for said protein in a cell is increased.

47. (New) The method of Claim 46, wherein said DNA is carried on a multicopy vector in the cell.

48. (New) The method of Claim 46, wherein said DNA is carried on a transposon in the cell.

49. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein the expression amount of (A) is increased.

50. (Amended) The method of claim 45, wherein the expression amount of (B) is increased.